

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Claims:

Claim 30 stands objected to for informalities (misspelling). Claim 30 is cancelled herein for other reasons discussed below.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 4,131,165 to Wanner.

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17, 18, 20-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,601,388 to Lauterwald.

Claims 16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over US 5,601,388 to Lauterwald in view of US 1,800,345 to Gustafson.

Independent claims 1 and 32 are amended herein to require:

an elongated locking element ~~moveably~~ pivotably mounted at a pivot point on an exterior surface of ~~with respect to~~ the main body, the locking element including a forward portion including an engaging portion located forward of the pivot point, the engaging portion pivotably moveable between a radially inner locked position, in which the engaging portion is engageable with the retaining collar of the tool, and a radially outer unlocked position, which enables a tool to be inserted into or removed from the main body; and

Applicant asserts that the amended independent claims 1 and 32 are allowable over the cited prior art. None of the 3 cited references disclose a locking element that pivots at a point rearward of the engaging portion (which is the converse of the claim language "the locking element including a forward portion including an engaging portion located forward of the pivot point"). The Examiner has stated that Lauterwald '388 contains a locking element 60 with a pivotable portion 62. Assuming for the sake of argument that Lauterwald's rear end portion 62 can be construed as a locking element and further assuming that it pivots, its "engaging portion" is not "located

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forward of the pivot point" as required by both the amended independent claims 1 and 32. Neither Wanner nor Gustafson contain any pivoting locking element.

Dependent claims 8 and 11 are cancelled and their limitations are substantially incorporated into amended claims 1 and 32.

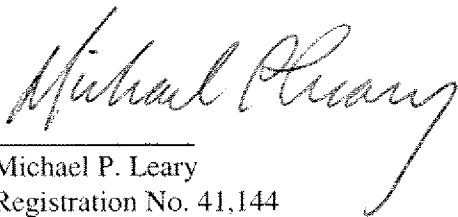
Dependent claims 9, 10, 12, 17, and 20 are amended to depend from amended claim 1.

Dependent claim 24 is amended to cure a spelling error.

Dependent claims 26-31 are withdrawn and cancelled as they were originally drawn to the third embodiment of FIGS 5 and 6 and can not depend from amended claim 1.

The Applicant retains the right to pursue to claims to that embodiment in a later filed Continuation application.

Respectfully submitted



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